

for future generations. I urge my Democrat colleagues to listen to their own colleagues and join us in saving Medicare, not the status quo.

MEDICARE PROGRAM IN DISTRESS

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, help.

I've fallen and can't get up!

This is the cry of a program—the Medicare program—in deep distress.

This is the cry of America's elderly as they tremble at the prospect of losing access to doctors, hospitals and medicines as the Medicare program is held hostage to the Republican steamroller of deficit reduction. By the year 2002, the average senior citizen will pay \$1,200 a year more in Medicare premiums.

This is the cry of health care providers across the country as they struggle to meet the needs of their patients in the face of ever-restrictive government reimbursement policies. Under the proposed \$270 billion cut to Medicare, hospitals will crumple—one hospital in my district will have to reduce its health care services by \$5.6 million. That's just one hospital. Multiply that by the number of hospitals in your district.

And what for? So rich people can wallow poolside in their second and third homes.

What do we get?

Tax breaks for the rich.

Tough breaks for the little guy.

MEDICARE

(Mr. FRISA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRISA. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a trust fund. People pay their money in and trust that it will be there for them when they need it. But the Democrats broke that trust and squandered our Medicare away. And not only have Democrats left their footprints on our seniors' backs, their fingerprints are all over our seniors' wallets.

But, Mr. Speaker, seniors can finally rest assured, because responsible Republicans have the courage and common sense to protect and preserve the Medicare system for our seniors in the future, while providing affordable increases so that they receive the care they deserve.

It is a good thing the Republicans are in control to get our fiscal house back in order.

MOVE FORWARD ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND LOBBY REFORM

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member, I came to this House commit-

ted to enacting reform and restoring the trust of the American people in Congress.

I am proud that on my first day in the House, we voted to make the Congress abide by the same laws other Americans do. We cut committee staff by one-third. We opened committee meetings to the public.

But the job is incomplete, and we risk undermining all that we have already done if we don't move forward with campaign finance reform and lobby reform. You cannot have one without the other. It is time to stop the money chase which perverts the electoral process.

It's been a month since the President and the Speaker shook hands over a commission to move these issues forward. The President is ready to act. Why isn't the Speaker? Let's vote on H.R. 1100, which I and others introduced before that meeting in New Hampshire, to form such a commission. The American people want an end to the talk of reform. They want action.

The American people are concerned as we act on legislation to cut Medicare, roll back environmental protection, and cut taxes. For the wealthiest they deserve to know we are doing their work and not that of special interests. Let's end the talk and bring campaign and lobby reform to the floor.

HARRY WU

(Mr. SALMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, Harry Wu, an American citizen, a tireless crusader for human rights, and my friend, is being unjustly detained in the People's Republic of China.

Harry Wu survived nineteen years of torture, starvation, and solitary confinement after he was imprisoned for merely criticizing the government. Since then has devoted himself to exposing the horrors of the Chinese gulag.

China, immediately release American citizen Harry Wu and allow his return to the United States. He has committed no crimes and is being detained illegally. This is a gross abuse of his rights and seriously damages U.S.-China relations. Free this innocent man.

To Chinese officials I say this in Chinese:

"Mr. Wu is an American. Mr. Wu is my friend. If you hurt him we will not forget. If you do not free him we will not forget. Be careful."

TIME TO SEND A MESSAGE TO SERBIAN AGGRESSORS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we shoot at one another across this aisle. We do

it verbally. There is a holocaust abroad in the world, and it is on the front page of the Washington Post, the Washington Times, the New York Times, and on every major network: Thirty thousand new refugees yesterday.

And what do we see on the front page of the Washington Post? A Dutch general, our general, the United Nations' general, having a drink with Ratko Mladic, an international terrorist, an international war criminal, an international thug.

Shame on the United Nations. Shame on the international Western community. Shame on America. We have imposed an arms embargo on the Bosnian people so they cannot defend themselves adequately. Shame on us.

Mr. Speaker, a holocaust goes on. Let us stand up, speak up, and vote to let the Serbian aggressors know that the West will not stand for international tuggery.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1977, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 187 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 187

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302(f), 306, or 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered by title rather than by paragraph. Each title shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. The amendments printed in section 2 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendment printed in section 3 of this resolution are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. Points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House